PEST RENAMED - Eric V. Golby.

On September 21, 1968 I received a note from Dr. G. W. Dekle, entomologist with the Division of Plant Industry, Gainesville, regarding the "Hand Grenade Scale" of Hibiscus, Cerococcus deklei. This serious pest, confined largely to Hibiscus, was first found on the lower East Coast about three years ago. It was first described by Dr. Dekle as a new species, and so bears his name. The adult has the appearance of a hand grenade under a hand lens.

Dr. Dekle has informed me that in agreement with the original discoverers, the name has been officially agreed on as HIBISCUS SCALE, Cerococcus deklei.

There are several scale insects that attack Hibiscus, and this is the one most difficult to eradicate, and the worst threat to Hibiscus, so it gets a name that may cause some confusion when we use the all-encompasing term - Hibiscus scale. I think that we would avoid confusion by referring to it as: HIBISCUS - HAND GRENADE SCALE. In this way, we will know that we are not referring to snow scale, soft brown scale, or the some fifty other scales sometimes found on Hibiscus,

At the present time, the heaviest concentration has been in the Dade and Broward area, on plants in private gardens. DPI inspectors check nurseries continuously, and plants are immediately quarrantined for four monthly sprayings with Cygon, then released if found clean. When the scales are found in private plantings, the local PDI inspector should be called. Look under "Florida - State of" in the phone book, or call your county agent. You will have to spray with Cygon, or other material that he may allow.

The major problem is the taking of cuttings, scions, or air-layers from these plants and bringing the pest home to your clean Hibiscus collection. They suck out the plant juices and can kill a plant in less than a year, in some cases. Most AHS members know of this pest through their membership, and the Seed Pod; it's the non-members that we're concerned about. It pays to be an American Hibiscus Society member!

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SEASON GREETINGS

Dear Friends,

Another fine year of fellowship has slipped past us on the busy stream of life. Evelyn and I appreciate our friends in the AHS and thank you all for the good times and courtesies you have shared with us.

We hope you will consider this our personal greeting and best wishes to each of you. During this Thanksgiving and Christmas season our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Even though the world is torn by hopeless hot and cold wars, riots, sit-ins and turmoil, we have much to be thankful for. Let us stop and reflect awhile on the reason our Lord sent His Son to this earth many long years ago. He came, and died on the cross, so that we can have hope for peace and happiness forever.

Evelyn and I hope you all have a bountiful Thanksgiving feast and a very merry Christmas.

Evelyn Jimmie

Mr. & Mrs. James E. Monroe